

**SUNSHINE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER FOR  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

**SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT**

**July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008**

**NIOSH Training Grant**

**No. T42 OH 008438**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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**ERC Annual Report**

**July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008**

**A. Major Accomplishments**

The principal purpose of the Sunshine Education and Research Center is to train professionals for practice in many of the fields of occupational health and safety. During the past year, we have graduated and enrolled students as described in the following table.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Graduated</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>
Industrial Hygiene	1 MSPH and 0 PhD	6 MSPH and 5 PhD
Occupational Health Nursing	0 MSN/MPH	12 MSN/MPH
Occupational Health Psychology	2 PhD	10 PhD
Occupational Medicine Residency	3 MSPH	5 MSPH and 1 MPH

Occupational Safety	7 MPH	9 MPH
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For the new academic year, we have seen a surge in new students for OHN and IH, which will be reflected in future reports.

Continuing Education/Outreach and Hazardous Substance Training continued to do well in providing health and safety training to active professionals. There were 14 CE offerings for 1200 attendees in continuing education programs and 26 HST offerings for 589 people.

### **ERC Website Address**

The ERC website follows:

<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/index.htm>

### **B. Significant Changes since FY 2007 Annual Report**

Curriculum changes for Occupational Health Nursing and Occupational Safety have been submitted and approved for Fall 2008. The OHN is a dual degree program for which the MSN and MPH are awarded. There was a small increase in total credit hours moved to the MSN for additional clinical training and an equal decrease in the MPH credit hours. These are preliminary steps that may eventually move the OHN program completely over to the College of Nursing with electives taken in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health.

In the process of developing a PhD program in occupational safety, an MSPH in occupational safety was approved. This complements the MPH degree and allows for more depth in either psychology or ergonomics as well as a more intense research experience with a thesis.

### **C. Program Description**

**Mission:** The Sunshine ERC improves the health, safety, and well being of workers through developing diverse high quality trained OHS graduate professionals having interdisciplinary experience, conducting cutting edge research, and providing outreach services.

The Sunshine Education and Research Center has just finished its 11<sup>th</sup> year and is comprised of programs dedicated to workplace health, safety and well-being in the College of Public Health, the College of Medicine, the College of Nursing, and the College of Arts and Sciences with support from the College of Engineering. The five academic programs of the ERC are 1) industrial hygiene (MSPH, PhD), 2) occupational health nursing (MSN/MPH), 3) occupational health psychology (PhD), 4) occupational medicine residency (MSPH and certificate), and occupational safety (MPH/MSPH). In addition, the center offers continuing education and Hazardous Substances Training (HST).

#### **D. Program Activities**

On October 5, 2007, the Sunshine ERC held its first interdisciplinary research poster session. Participants were from the academic training programs in Occupational Medicine, Occupational Health Nursing, Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Safety and Occupational Health Psychology. The purpose of this research poster session was to promote interdisciplinary learning between the graduate students in the ERC's five academic programs. Graduate students were able to enter into a drawing for an iPod after 'visiting' all the posters. This was followed by a reception for students, staff and faculty of the ERC. To increase the visibility of the program, these posters and others were presented at the USF Research Day in February 2008. Several of the posters won recognition awards.

The interdisciplinary activities were enhanced by the NORA seminar series, which included students and faculty from the different academic programs, and the increased base for special projects or theses. We are beginning to assign faculty in other programs as a thesis or special project advisors and to build across the research bases. There has been one MSPH thesis completed so far with an OMR working with a safety faculty on the predicative validity of an MSD assessment method.

A series of new informational handouts about the ERC and each academic program were developed this year and links to these handouts are on the ERC's website for prospective students at <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/prospective.htm>. These materials have been provided at all recruitment activities and events mentioned below:

- a. ERC faculty and staff have given formal presentations about OS & H careers and the ERC educational programs to faculty and staff in USF's Diversity Network, Council of Academic Advisors, and USF Career Center. Presentations have included an audiovisual presentation describing the ERC and a question and answer discussion period. Attendees have been encouraged to disseminate the handouts to the USF students whom they teach/advise.
- b. ERC faculty, staff and doctoral students have led interactive and informative presentations to USF college students, in both classes and at student organization meetings. Informational walking tours of the ERC led by ERC doctoral students have been added this year as an additional recruitment activity and will be offered on a more regular basis in 2008-09.
- c. Outreach presentations to inform high school students and their teachers about OH & S careers and the ERC have been given both on the USF campus and in the community.
- d. The COPH and CON recruiters have collaborated with ERC staff in displaying ERC materials and notebooks at local health care institution recruitment fairs, a USF graduate program fair and special events on the USF campus.

- e. The new ERC informational materials have been displayed and distributed by the COPH and CON recruiter, as well as ERC faculty attending local, regional and nutritional conferences.
- f. ERC informational materials have been made available to those attending the ERC CE and HST courses.

### **E. Program Products**

ERC students, faculty and staff continue to perform research in their areas of interest and to present and publish their results. Several students have started cross-disciplinary projects which will likely result in presentations and papers.

We have prepared specific goals for our training and research activities with measurable objectives. A Score Card has been drafted and will be implemented in the next year.

### **F. Future Plans**

Dr. Bernard is responsible for the relationship building with one TPG [University of Puerto Rico (Jesus Gonzalez, Director)] and one potential new TPG at Florida International University (Deodutta Roy, Chair of EOH). We believe that their participation in Sunshine ERC activities is very important and it should be a strategic initiative in future years. For both universities, the ERC has encouraged participation in the November Research Poster programs and on the pilot project review committee. Some of the Outreach budget will be used to defray the travel costs for students and faculty in the partner institutions to attend the Research Poster program. In the future, we plan to rotate the site among Tampa, Miami and San Juan.

For the pilot project program, we solicited project applications from both universities and invited a representative from each to sit on the review committee. This should encourage submissions and makes the process transparent.